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## Letter from the Global Education Director

Encouraged by the tremendous enthusiasm resulting from the Middle and High School Training Conferences, GCDC is gearing up for the Spring Model UN Conference on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the US Department of State! To date, we have all of our seats filled and are excited to see the fruits of the DC students' and teachers' preparations. Model UN Trainers are working diligently and regularly in the classrooms, co-facilitating the new GCDC curriculum supplement. GCDC Volunteers are attending classes to share their expertise, bringing reality to what the students are learning. And the Curriculum Advisory Group continues to meet monthly and explore new educational ideas, one of which is the newly created online resource library available to teachers and students to assist with research on the GCDC website.

Both Training Conferences were very successful, and students left feeling better prepared to research their topics. Luke C. Moore Academy graciously played host for the fourth year in a row on February 25<sup>th</sup> for high school students, arriving from McKinley Technology High School, Roosevelt Senior High School and School without Walls. On March 5<sup>th</sup> Kelly Miller Middle School cordially hosted the middle school students hailing from Janney Elementary School and Stuart Hobson Middle School.

Both Training Conferences incorporated guest speakers on each of the conference topics and allowed the students to explore their topics further with a movie mini-simulation. The Conferences were led by Model UN Trainers and provided the students a better understanding of position paper writing and parliamentary procedure. The GCDC Model UN Trainers truly were the stars of the Training Conferences, handling all obstacles put forth and providing stimulating and educational opportunities.

GCDC is setting up different field trips to enhance learning opportunities: at the United Nations Headquarters; digital videoconferences between GCDC students and their peers in other countries; and trips to embassies and other cross-cultural venues. On April 8<sup>th</sup> the US Department of State will play host to a Policy Advisers Orientation, to aid GCDC Volunteers in assisting and guiding students at the Spring Model UN Conference.

All in all, GCDC is busy and excited! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Model UN Conference, and we would like to thank everyone in advance for their hard work and assistance.

*Sincerely,*  
**Dani Abrams**  
*Director, Global Education*



Now students are  
able to discuss  
outside the  
conference via

## Ghana & DC Exchange

ExchangesConnect

at  
[http://connect.state.gov/group/ghanadc\\_exchange](http://connect.state.gov/group/ghanadc_exchange)

If you are interested  
in joining the online  
discussion, please  
request an  
invitation!



# Digital Video Conference with Ghana

The last video conference of the series of three between students in Washington, DC and Accra, Ghana took place on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. GCDC students had another exciting opportunity to visit the main building of the U.S. State Department in downtown Washington, DC, while the Ghanaian students were hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Accra.



This video conference took place in a more formal setting than the previous ones, in a new room at the State Department, one with a very professional environment. Unfortunately, students did not see the faces of each other during the previous two conferences due to technical difficulties with video facilities. However, all the equipment worked well this time, and students had the opportunity to experience a real digital video conference!



The conference began with the students introducing themselves. Since it was their first time seeing each others' faces, students on both sides felt excited as well as a little shy. After a few minutes, however, they warmed up and became more comfortable and actively involved in the discussion.



Since it was right after the presidential election in Ghana, the discussion was focused on the result of the election, a runoff between the top two candidates. Ghanaian students were very excited about the situation and expressed their hopes and expectations.

GCDC students were interested in the different presidential election system in Ghana and had questions about the campaigns. Ghanaian students answered with various examples of media campaigns they witnessed during the election. They also sang songs which the parties used during the campaigns.



GCDC students were also fortunate to hear from Akunna Cook, State Department FSO and Ghana Desk Officer. She told of her career experiences in many different countries and how she entered the State Department.

As the conference was held before Christmas, students also shared their experiences within the different cultures during the holidays. Then they shared Christmas wishes.

>> **Sang Yun Cho**  
GCDC

Communications & Media PA



# Students Responses to Digital Video Conferences with Ghana

My communication with the students was a phenomenal and exciting experience, in which we got to learn about each others' backgrounds and the presidential elections. My views of Ghana have changed enormously. Before, I didn't know that that Ghana had a well-organized government (democracy) because in most African nations there is nothing like that, such as in Ethiopia. I also thought Ghana was a Muslim country because most countries in Africa are influenced/ruled by Muslims. However, by communicating with the students in Ghana, I have learned that Ghana is mostly Christian. This was an excellent opportunity and I thank the State Department and GCDC for this opportunity.

**>> Tedros Bitew: 10<sup>th</sup> grade**

The communication between the US and Ghana was very interesting. Although we had technical difficulties at times, we were able to discuss our elections, both here and in Ghana. I learned the NPP was the most famous party, but the NDC proved them wrong when Ghana selected John Atta Mills as president. As opposed to the US, which has 2 predominant political parties, Ghana has more. My views of Ghana, or Africa period, have changed tremendously. I finally have some understand as to how their government is run.

**>> Bryan Miller-Foster: 10<sup>th</sup> grade**

After communicating with Ghana, I felt special to have had this opportunity. I learned about how their government worked before they declared independence. The people in Ghana were all required to be in their houses before 6pm or they were ... punished somehow. I used to think that more areas of Ghana were poorer than they are, but the students that we spoke to were middle class, which is similar to most of us here. I would have liked to speak with them for a while longer to discuss basic things and to ask them individually about their family and friends. Overall, this was a great experience and I would love to do it again.

**>> Alyssa Scarlett: 10<sup>th</sup> grade**

Talking to Ghana was a great experience. We did not only talk about the elections, but also their everyday lives. I learned a lot about how their government is run and how elections are held. If we were able to go again, I would have loved to talk more about their everyday lives. Also, because there was a run-off, we weren't able to discuss their reactions to the winner. My views of Ghana have definitely changed. Before, I did not know anything about their government, such as how it was run or the elections. Now, I have a much clearer view of Ghana. This experience was great. I felt like we were in the same room and were really talking in person. Knowing that the children there are just like children here, and have their own opinions, has changed my view of Ghana for the best.

**>> Bethlehem Horn: 10<sup>th</sup> grade**



Over the course of my interaction with the students from Ghana, I learned many things. For one, I learned that other countries, like Ghana, pay a lot more attention to the US and its affairs than we pay to theirs. The students spoke about the election [in the US] as if they were living here and they talked about the election night and how excited the people of Ghana were as if they themselves were in America the day it happened. Then as their election day grew closer, I realized that no one in the U.S. knew of the election, of the candidates, of anything. There was no front page of the *Washington Post* announcing a run-off, there was no column dedicated to the political instability of Ghana and what the people have gone through for democracy – a thing we take for granted. But then in our final DVC, I also realized that the people, the students we were talking to were just that, students. They were just happy to have democracy and ... be able to enjoy the one thing many look to the US for.

**>> Elijah Umek: 10<sup>th</sup> grade**



“

*As a teacher of World History, I have found Global Classrooms to be a valuable resource in helping my students become more knowledgeable about World Issues. The resources and supports I have received through the GCDC Program are always engaging and useful in meeting the diverse needs of my students.*

”

*>> Mark Lalonde  
Teacher at  
Roosevelt Senior  
High School*



## High School Training Conference

The High School Training Conference took place on Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at Luke C. Moore Academy. With the help of esteemed speakers, experienced Trainers, Luke C. Moore staff and faculty, and UNA-NCA Program Assistants, GCDC ran another successful training conference. Students participated in movie mini-simulations, attended workshops on parliamentary procedure, and were provided information on their conference topics through speaker presentations. Parliamentary procedure was the highlight of the afternoon and a GCDC Trainer, Krista Cortes, led the students in a game of jeopardy.

GCDC Volunteers were invited to speak to students on the conference topics of the Role of Diamonds in Fueling Conflict, Preventing Nuclear Terrorism, Human Rights of Female Refugees, Global Warming, and Access to Medication in Developing Nations.

Six volunteers came from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Marine Corps., EarthDay Network, and the American Medical Student Association to participate in the conference as speakers. The interactive presentations helped students better understand their topics.

*I had a wonderful time at this past Model UN Conference. It taught me what Model UN is all about and it gave me better insight on it. The speakers were great and showed enthusiasm throughout their presentations... I look forward to the [Spring Model UN] Conference...*

*>> David Parker, Roosevelt Senior High School*



Best Delegate Awards went to Leslee Lewis from McKinley Tech, and Roosevelt Senior High School students Rascelle Lancaster, Jose Mercedes and Myrie Harold.

*>> Lydia Prakash  
& Sang Yun Cho  
GCDC Program Assistants*

*My experience at the practice for the Model United Nations Conference was very rewarding. I loved when we went off into our separate committees to discuss our topics for the Spring Conference. I walked away with my first award for outstanding delegate which helped my confidence in moving forward. I recommend Model United Nations to everyone because it has been so enjoyable to me.*

*>> Raschell Lancaster,  
Roosevelt Senior High School*





# Middle School Training Conference

The GCDC Middle School Training Conference took place on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Kelly Miller Middle School in Washington, DC. About eighty middle school students participated in this event.

GCDC invited four Volunteers from the U.S. Department of State, the Marine Corps., the Migration Policy Institute, and George Washington University to speak to students on the topics of Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, Children in Armed Conflict, the Rights of Indigenous Women and Children and Globalization and Competition for Resources.



It was a great opportunity for students to listen to expert knowledge from professionals in the field of their topics.

Since the students had just begun research on their assigned topics, the speaker presentations helped them to better understand the concepts. Speakers delivered in-depth information effectively utilizing visual images as well as statistical information.



After the speaker presentations, students broke into committees and participated in movie mini-simulations. This was designed to help students better understand their topics by watching movie clips related to their topics. Model UN Trainers ran the mini-simulations for each conference topic, while some volunteer speakers joined the mini-simulations and had opportunities to interact with students.

Best Delegate Awards went to Tiesha Taylor from Kelly Miller Middle School, Samuel Dreyer and Emma Keyes from Janney Elementary School, and Toree Weaver from Stuart Hobson Middle School.

It was a practical exercise for the middle school students. Via the Training Conferences students had a good sense of what the Spring Model UN Conference in May will be like. They also learned what and how to prepare for the Conference as well as how to behave.

With phenomenal assistance from UNA-NCA Program Assistants, GCDC Program Assistants, experienced Model UN Trainers and the staff and faculty of Kelly Miller Middle School, the Middle School Training Conference went smoothly.

**>> Sang Yun Cho**  
GCDC  
Communications & Media PA

## Become a Model UN Trainer!

University students  
(undergrads and  
graduates) work with  
GCDC teachers, co-  
implementing Model  
UN in the classroom.

If you are interested,  
please contact

Lydia Prakash,

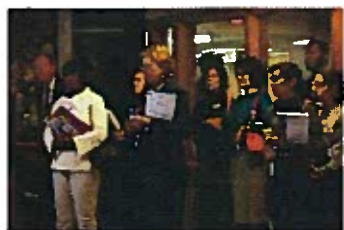
GCDC Educational  
Development and  
Training PA, at  
[lpakash@unanca.org](mailto:lpakash@unanca.org)





# Volunteer Orientation

The GCDC Volunteer Program orientation took place at the State Department on Jan 28, 2009. The purpose of this event was to help GCDC volunteers better understand UNA-NCA as an organization, the various methods to participate in the upcoming GCDC Spring Model UN Conference, the duties expected of a GCDC Volunteer, and how to get more involved with the energetic group of GCDC volunteers.



The snowy weather that afternoon made the atmosphere inside State Department more welcoming and hospitable. More than 60 volunteers from the State Department and a variety of other organizations attended the orientation in the

Delegate's Lounge and received GCDC information, CD-ROMs, brochures, and calendars.

Jim Warlick, Acting Principal Secretary from the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs, opened the session and predicted great success for the GCDC Spring Model UN Conference. He expressed his continuing support for another tremendous event this year. Ed Elmendorf, President of UNA-NCA, gave a brief introduction of the history and the mission of UNA-NCA. Dani Abrams, Director of Global Education at UNA-NCA, followed with an impressive overview of GCDC and the Spring Conference.

Following the opening remarks, volunteers dispersed in break-out groups. Each was led by an experienced UNA-NCA staff member, DC Public School staff or GCDC Volunteer, each of whom delivered a 10-minute presentation on the following

topics: an overview of GCDC activities and DCPS specifically; the role of an educator/mentor; and the role of policy advisors.



The volunteers had their questions clarified at the Q&A session. This orientation proved to be very effective, not to mention that it was interactive, and also fun.

GCDC volunteers took full advantage of their time, with the help of the in-depth presentations from experts in each individual subject. Additionally, volunteers also had the opportunity to network with colleagues, some with a vast amount of experience with Model UN or GCDC, some specialists in specific topic areas, and some new to GCDC completely.



In summary, the Volunteer Orientation was a very encouraging initial step toward the ultimate goal: the GCDC Spring Model UN Conference on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Exiting the Delegate's Lounge, the new Volunteers were better informed about their roles in this rewarding process, as well as about the other ways they can contribute to GCDC events.

Based on the success of these preparatory programs, GCDC is confident that the upcoming Spring Model UN Conference will be a great learning experience for the students, teachers, and volunteers.

**>> Sha Zhu**  
GCDC  
Event Planning PA

**Save the Date!**

**GCDC Spring  
Model UN Conference**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**U.S. Department of  
State**

## 2009 Spring Model UN Conference Committees and Topics

| Group           | Committee                     | Topic                                      |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| High School 1   | Economic Committee for Africa | The Role of Diamonds in Fueling Conflict   |
| High School 2   | Security Council              | Preventing Nuclear Terrorism               |
| High School 3   | Human Rights Council          | Human Rights of Female Refugees            |
| High School 4   | UNEP Executive Board          | Global Warming                             |
| High School 5   | ECOSOC                        | Access to Medication in Developing Nations |
| Middle School 1 | ECLAC                         | Migration in Latin America & the Caribbean |
| Middle School 2 | UNICEF                        | Children in Armed Conflict                 |
| Middle School 3 | Human Rights Council          | Rights of Indigenous Women & Children      |
| Middle School 4 | ECOSOC                        | Globalization & Competition for Resources  |

## Join the GCDC Volunteer Program

Time commitments range from one 45-minute session to a weekly basis throughout the year, acting as a mentor, educator, or advisor to GCDC middle and high school students!

### Mentor

Participate in career panels and share personal and professional international experiences with students, teachers, and DC public school administrators.

### Educator

Visit classrooms and assist GCDC staff in interactive lessons for students on a conference topic-related issue; assist students prepare position papers for upcoming training conferences

### Advisor

Participate in upcoming model UN simulations by advising student delegates on their countries' positions, encouraging active participation, and help delegates forge alliances, write resolutions, and steer debate.

**For more information, please visit our website at [gcdc.unanca.org](http://gcdc.unanca.org) or contact Sang Yun Cho, Communications & Media Program Assistant, at [scho@unanca.org](mailto:scho@unanca.org).**







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## GCDC Announcements

### Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Policy Advisors Workshop, April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Model UN Trainer Meeting #4, April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Curriculum Advisory Group Meeting, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- GCDC Spring Model UN Conference, May 11<sup>th</sup>

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## MARPAT FOUNDATION

*Hattie M. Strong Foundation*

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